

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

observing the price of an agricultural product at observation points over a period of time; specifying a maximum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the maximum price in the event the observed price is greater than the maximum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is less than the maximum price; and

calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a premium above the average; and

paying to a seller of the quantity of the agricultural product an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 2 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the selected price is a per unit price X, the premium is a per unit price Y, the quantity is Z units, and the calculated price is equivalent to $(X + Y) * Z$.

Claim 3 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the seller is an agricultural producer.

Claim 4 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the seller is a reseller of agricultural products.

Claim 5 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the agricultural products include grain.

Claim 6 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the agricultural products include livestock.

Claim 7 (Cancelled): The method of claim 1, wherein the agricultural products include animal produce.

Claim 8 (Original): A method comprising:

preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of an agricultural product between an elevator and agricultural producers; and

aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the elevator and a derivatives provider.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein the smaller number of contracts include options that limit prices for the smaller number of contracts to no more than a predetermined level.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8, further comprising:

transmitting payments between the derivatives provider and the elevator; and
transmitting payments between the elevator and agricultural producers.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 8, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the agricultural producers.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 8, further comprising preparing the smaller number of contracts by preparing contracts between the elevator and an elevator services company and preparing contracts between the elevator services company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 13 (Currently amended) The method of claim 8[[5]], further comprising taking physical delivery of the agricultural product from the agricultural producers at the elevator.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the agricultural products include grain.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the agricultural products include livestock.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the agricultural products include animal produce.

Claim 17 (Cancelled): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

observing the price of an agricultural product at observation points over a period of time;

specifying a minimum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the minimum price in the event the observed price is less than the minimum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is greater than the minimum price; and

calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a discount below the average; and

paying to a seller of the quantity of the agricultural product an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 18 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the selected price is a per unit price X, the discount is a per unit price Y, the quantity is Z units, and the calculated price is equivalent to $(X - Y) * Z$.

Claim 19 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the seller is an agricultural producer.

Claim 20 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the seller is a reseller of agricultural products.

Claim 21 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the agricultural products include grain.

Claim 22 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the agricultural products include livestock.

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Claim 23 (Cancelled): The method of claim 17, wherein the agricultural products include animal produce.

Claim 24 (Original): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

- preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of an agricultural product between an elevator and agricultural producers;
- aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the elevator and a derivatives provider;
- observing the price of the agricultural product at observation points over a period of time;
- specifying a minimum price;
- for each of the observation points, selecting the minimum price in the event the observed price is less than the minimum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is greater than the minimum price;
- calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a discount below the average; and
- paying to each agricultural producer an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising executing a financial swap between the elevator and the derivatives provider.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising:

- executing a financial swap between the elevator and an elevator service company; and
- executing a financial swap between the elevator service company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the agricultural producers.

Claim 30 (Original): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of an agricultural product between an elevator and agricultural producers;

aggregating the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the elevator and a derivatives provider;

observing the price of the agricultural product at observation points over a period of time; specifying a maximum price;

for each of the observation points, selecting the maximum price in the event the observed price is greater than the maximum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is less than the maximum price;

calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a premium above the average; and

paying to each agricultural producer an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising executing a financial swap between the elevator and the derivatives provider.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising:

executing a financial swap between the elevator and an elevator service company; and

executing a financial swap between the elevator service company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

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Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the agricultural producers.